

ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
4 - 8 NOV 59
C.R. 54
L452/3 ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
Oxford

ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1949

Printed by Graham & Co., Haltwhistle.

ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1949



To the
**ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report as Medical Officer of Health for your area for the year 1949.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. HASSAN.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL FOR THE YEAR 1949.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,971 Acres
Population:								1949
Registrar-General's	Estimate	of	Resident					
Population, Mid-year	...	...	...	...				2,300
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book:								
Alston Ward (Country)	...	...	...	...				200
Alston Ward (Lighting Area)	...	...	...	...				281
Nenthead Ward	...	...	...	...	...			216
Garrigill Ward	...	...	...	...	...			142
					Total	...		839
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...		£9,118
Sum represented by Penny Rate (less Exchequer Grants)	...	...	...	...	...	...		£33 0 8.14d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The general improvement which began after the war, continues, and indeed is gaining momentum with each year. The peak of social achievement has not yet been reached, nationally or locally. As there is so much to be accomplished locally, it is hoped that the peak will not be attained for many years.

The population figure shows a further increase over last year, this is an estimated figure which is considered to be conservative, and which will be revised in the event of a national census. The vital statistics show a reduction in births and deaths, but the reduction in deaths is greater. The gap between deaths and births is narrowing, this is a progressive sign, a sign of a vital thriving community. With the general improvements noted it should be possible to report in future years the ascendancy of birth rate over

death rate. Of prime importance in this connection is Housing, and here it can be told that not only have the number of houses increased, but, the worst of the older properties are no longer inhabited, and improvements have been extensively carried out in others. While many dwellings are outmoded, the number of dilapidated properties is few. Housing continues to be the first concern of the Council. Material prosperity in agriculture and industry remains a feature, and a vast expansion of industrial effort of a new kind for this district is under way, with the possibility of early production. As the venture is sited at Nenthead it is probable that the housing problem there will become more acute than at present. There is unfortunately no quick method of overcoming this difficulty, which must be tackled in the same resolute manner of recent years.

LIVE BIRTHS.

						1949	
						M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	16	14
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						31	

STILL BIRTHS.

						M.	F.
Legitimate	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—

ANNUAL BIRTH-RATE per 1,000
estimated population

For this Area	...	...	...	...	...	13.5
For Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	18.5
For Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	18.2
For England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	16.7

STILL BIRTH-RATE for the Area per 1,000

Total Births43
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

						M.	F.
DEATHS	...	...	...	...	...	20	13

Total 33

RATES per 1,000 estimated population:—

For this Area	...	...	...	...	...	14.4
For County of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	12.8
For Rural Areas of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	12.4
For England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	Nil.
				M.	F.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

(Illegitimate None) — ... —

Rate All Infants per 1,000 live births —

Rate for England and Wales 32

M. F.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 3 ... 2

Total 5

Deaths from:

Measles (all ages) —

Whooping Cough —

Diarrhoea (under 2 years) —

SECTION B

(i) Public Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

JOHN R. HASSAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.
Market Place, Alston.

Daily, 9—10 a.m.; 6—7 p.m.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. G. FIRTH, M.S.I.A., Town Hall, Alston.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

These facilities provided by the Cumberland Infirmary Pathological Laboratory remain of the same high order. There has been an extension in the services provided and transportation has been improved.

(b) Hospital Transport and Ambulance Service.

The cost of sitting car case transport has become of serious concern. As can be imagined rural

districts in rural counties would make apparently heavy demands. The decision between entitlement and non-entitlement is often difficult, and dissatisfaction must be felt by all concerned. This is an initial difficulty however, which a firm ruling and re-organisation of the service can eradicate. Such re-organisation is expected.

Ambulance transport remains the same. An improvement is hoped and looked for.

(c) Home Nursing.

This has been a difficult service to maintain at the previous high level. Although the shortage of nurses is not so marked, it has been difficult to attract them to the area. Further the scheme of Home Helps has not been established, and consequently nurses have been required to do work which could well be done by the unqualified. However with the provision of better accommodation and other small inducements there should be acquired a full complement of nursing staff.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Extensive additions are being made to the Cottage Hospital Out-Patient department. In addition there is being acquired apparatus and equipment for the establishment of a Physiotherapy Department. The services previously provided continue to be well used.

(e) Hospitals.

The extension and modernising of the Cottage Hospital is nearing completion. Professional facilities and improved amenities will make this an important item in the life of the community. It is envisaged that regular out-patient sessions will be conducted by consultants in two or three specialties. With the improved staff accommodation it is anticipated that more applicants will be forthcoming and so a greater volume and scope of work attempted.

SECTION C

(1) WATER.

(i) Alston.

This water supply is collected in a covered reservoir of approximately 9,000 gallons capacity at Springfield at an altitude of 1,165 ft. O.D. The water rises in limestone strata and the estimated daily consumption is 50,000 gallons.

The supply and reservoir proved to be most inadequate in the dry summer of 1949. In certain localities of the town the pressure fell to zero daily, at certain hours, and provided a most cogent justification of the Comprehensive Water Supply which the Council approved in 1946 for this district. It is disappointing to report that delay has occurred in the inception of this scheme which delay is outwith the power of the Council to overcome.

Added justification for a new water scheme is provided by the increased demand for water imposed by the housing estates at The Firs, including the extended Cottage Hospital, and at Jollybeard Lane.

(ii) Nenthead.

Spring supply rising in limestone, located near Killhope Cross on the Cumberland-Durham border at an altitude of 1,700 ft. O.D. The water is collected in a covered reservoir of approximately 32,000 gallons capacity. Estimated consumption, 20,000 gallons per day.

(iii) Garrigill.

Spring supply rising in limestone about two miles south of Garrigill and is collected in a covered reservoir of approximately 15,000 gallons capacity at 1,200 ft. O.D. Estimated consumption, 9,200 gallons per day.

Sampling of these supplies has always given a satisfactory report.

The water in each case is hard.

(2) SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The area is adequately sewered in so far as the three main centres of population are concerned and the plants give no trouble and are capable of dealing with much increased loads if necessary.

In the more isolated dwellings and hamlets however, natural water courses are used often in close propinquity to the water supplies. Constant anxiety is felt because of this, as the water supplies are frequently contaminated with faecal organisms. Once more the need of the Comprehensive Water Scheme is manifested as many such places would receive a supply from the main central supply.

(3) (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A further improvement has taken place during the year in this connection, the figures being:—

Number of Pail Closets	...	178
Number of Earth Closets	...	158
Number of Water Closets	...	513

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There has been an improvement in the attention which the public highways have received and the whole district has taken on a smarter appearance.

Collection of refuse as before is by contract, covered horse drawn carts being used. The collection and disposal is unsatisfactory and the Alston tip is badly cared for and heavily infested with rats. This matter is receiving urgent attention and it is hoped that collection by mechanical transport and central tipping removed far from habitation will ultimately take the place of the present regime.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections	421
Nuisances Reported	10
Nuisances abated with informal notice	9
Informal Notices	9
Statutory Notices	Nil
Number of Houses Inspected	61
Number of Houses Disinfested	Nil
Houses Demolished	2
New Houses Erected (Local Authority)	16
Houses Reconditioned	Nil
Plans Submitted	19
Plans Approved	19
Number of New Sewer Connections	16
Number of New Water Connections	16

(iv) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken in this connection during 1949.

(v) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

None exist in the area. Natural pools in the river are used by adults and children. These pools are difficult of access and unsafe. With such natural advantages it is hoped that one day work will be started on one of these pools in an endeavour to provide an amenity which would be widely appreciated and so provide yet another attraction for visitors to the area.

(vi) BED BUGS.

No action has been necessary in this connection.

(4) SCHOOLS.

Alston High School—The play ground of this school has received attention. The matter of access is also receiving attention and a much needed improvement is anticipated.

Alston Infant School—No work has been carried out at this school and the sanitary accommodation remains inadequate and highly unsatisfactory.

Nenthead—This school is satisfactory but is the only one in the area not yet provided with a canteen meal service. The benefit of a canteen is so great that it is hoped that every effort will be made to get such service speedily established.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The report is encouraging under this section. The worst of the old properties, with the exception of one group, have been vacated. No longer are dangerous properties inhabited, and many of the older cottages have been improved in so far as satisfactory food storage has been installed and water led into the house.

The post war housing programme continues to provide good homes at a gratifying rate. The standard of the homes is good although greater provision of outbuildings might have been given. This is an important factor in rural communities where storage is used to a greater extent than in urban districts. Future houses planned continue to be sited near the main villages and hamlets, as it is considered far better that the worker should have to travel to work rather than the family should be remote from school, church, shops and the other amenities of village life.

It has thus been possible to envisage a scheme of street lighting by electricity which would benefit a considerable percentage of the population of the district.

POST WAR HOUSING

1948		1949	
Houses Completed:			
Alston—	20 Traditional Type	Alston—	12 Prefabricated Airey
Nenthead—	8 Traditional Type	Garrigill—	4 Traditional Type
Houses in Course of Construction:			
Alston—	12 Prefabricated Airey	Alston—	8 Traditional Type
Garrigill—	4 Traditional Type		

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Sampling:

Nineteen samples have been taken. Fifteen were satisfactory and four unsatisfactory.

The general standard of Milk Production in the area is satisfactory and the conditions of buildings satisfactory within structural limitations. Further improvements of the buildings necessitates alterations which no doubt would have been carried out had material and labour conditions been easier.

Number of dairymen, cowkeepers and purveyors of milk in the district—98.

Number Registered	98
Number of inspections during milk production	29

(b) Meat.

The transport of meat now conforms more closely with the standards of hygiene demanded. It is gratifying to report that retailers of butcher meat and food caterers have obtained Refrigerators in a number of cases.

(c) Ice Cream.

Is produced locally during the summer months, in conformity with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

It is pleasing to report that there was no widespread epidemic of infectious disease during the year.

The reluctance to seek protection against smallpox, which became manifest with the introduction of the National Health Service, is now passing and it is hoped that once more universal protection in infancy will be the order.

Protection against Diphtheria is sought and given without exception in infancy and at the recommended times during school life.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) FOR THE YEAR 1949.

DISEASE						N.	H.	D.
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	—
Puerper. Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	...	9	—	—

N—Notified.

H—Treated in Hospital.

D—Died

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1949.

			NEW CASES		DEATHS	
Age Periods.			Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...
1	...	...	...
5	...	...	...
10	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	1		
25	...	...	...
35	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	1		
55	...	...	...		1	
65	and upwards		1			
			<hr/>		<hr/>	
			2	1	1	

CAUSES OF DEATH				1949	
				M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	...	...	—	...	—
2. Cerebrospinal Fever	...	...	—	...	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	...	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	—	...	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	—	...	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	1	...	—
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	...	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	—	...	—
9. Influenza	...	...	—	...	—
10. Measles	...	...	—	...	—
11. Ac. Polio-myel and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	—	...	—
12. Ac. Infant Encephalitis	...	...	—	...	—
13. Cancer of Mouth M., and Uterus F.	...	...	—	...	—
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	1	...	1
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	—	...	—
16. Cancer of Other Sites	...	...	2	...	1
17. Diabetes	...	...	—	...	—
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	2	...	4
19. Heart Disease	...	...	6	...	3
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	1	...	—
21. Bronchitis	...	...	—	...	1
22. Pneumonia	...	...	—	...	1
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2	...	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	—	...	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	—	...	—
26. Appendicitis	...	...	—	...	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	...	1
28. Nephritis	...	...	—	...	1
29. Puerc. and post-abortion. Sepsis	...	...	—	...	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	...	...	—	...	—
31. Premature Birth	...	...	—	...	—
32. Congenital Diseases	...	...	2	...	—
33. Suicide	...	...	—	...	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	—	...	—
35. Other Violent Causes	...	...	1	...	—
36. All Other Causes	...	...	—	...	—
Totals				20	13

M. and F. signify Male and Female.



